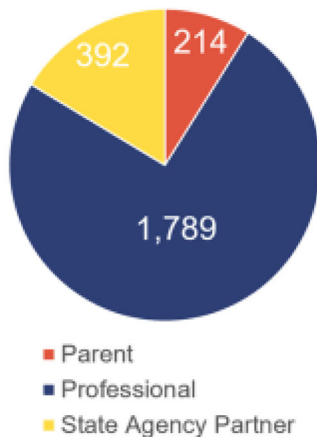




Childhood Connections

October 1, 2021

Welcome to the Office of Childhood!



Wow! Hard to believe it's been one month since the launch of the Office of Childhood. Seems like it was just yesterday.

September was full of continued engagements, including webinars with team members, meetings with providers, and other important stakeholder events – these activities are a part of the mission in the Office of Childhood to improve our outreach and communications with you!

Our messages reach over 2,500 stakeholders, including parents, state partners, and a variety of local professionals, in addition to thousands of child care providers, educators, and home visitors who provide direct services to children and families.

In this month's newsletter, I'm particularly excited about the collaboration with The Hunt Institute and the Zero to Three Building Strong Foundations for Families team who just completed their initial report and recommendations for stakeholder engagement with the Office of Childhood. I hope you take a few minutes to review this report and the other announcements in this month's newsletter - there's a lot of good information in here. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to childhood activities in Missouri.

Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

Paycheck Protection Program — Application Closing Soon!

There are several [funding opportunities](#) available for child care providers in Missouri. The Terms & Conditions and applications are located on the [Early Connections](#) website.

The Paycheck Protection Program application will close on October 31, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. This application covers expenses between January 1,



First Steps' Year at a Glance

Each year, the Early Intervention section publishes a document called *Year at a Glance*, which highlights the

2021 through June 30, 2021. If you have not already applied, please do so before the opportunity closes.

What We Do

Based on suggestions from providers, we recently updated the [What We Do](#) webpage with more details. Thank you for the feedback.

Child Care Subsidy Providers — Child Absences

Due to the increasing number of COVID absences from September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, the Office of Childhood will pay for additional absences through your typical monthly subsidy payment. Providers will need to enter the child(ren) as absent in the CCBIS system for any day they are not in attendance. All absences will be paid for children enrolled in the child care subsidy program through the end of the year.

Stakeholder Engagement Report

Missouri stakeholders and leaders came together with [The Hunt Institute](#) in the spring and summer of 2021 to develop recommendations for ongoing engagement with the Office of Childhood (OOC) with the goal of ensuring meaningful participation within its decision-making processes. To achieve this goal, leaders held numerous meetings, focus groups, and survey activities to unite all early childhood and afterschool stakeholders to provide the OOC with comprehensive feedback and recommendations for [Early Childhood and Afterschool Stakeholder Engagement](#).

October is Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month



Babies should sleep alone, on their backs, and in a crib for every sleep...nighttime, naptime, every

journeys of several Missouri families participating in the First Steps Early Intervention program. This publication also focuses on key program data, such as the number of children served in each county, where referrals come from, and where children transition when their time in First Steps ends. The *2020-21 Year at a Glance* is available on the [Office of Childhood website](#).

Home Visitor Professional Development

Home visitors looking for professional development opportunities will find options through the [Missouri PAT Professional Development Program](#). While some trainings are specific to the Missouri Parents as Teachers program, there are trainings that would be beneficial to all home visitors.

Subjects include:

- Healthy Births and Babies
- Meeting Sensory Needs through Play
- Lead Poisoning in Missouri and What You Can Do about It

Save the Date

DESE hosts an annual Conference on the Young Years (CYY) that provides professional development

time. View the Missouri Safe Sleep Coalition's [ABC's of Safe Sleep Video](#) and spread the word to practice the ABCs of Infant Safe Sleep from birth through a baby's first birthday. To learn more about infant safe sleep, visit the [Safe Sleep Missouri website](#) for information, statewide resources, and trainings.

Proposed Rule Changes

On September 13 the State Board of Education reviewed the proposed rule changes below. A copy of the information shared with the Board is on the [September agenda](#). Note: the proposed rule amendments will soon be filed with the Secretary of State and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules where the public will be provided the opportunity to formally comment on the proposed changes.

Child Care Regulation

The Child Care Regulation section in the Office of Childhood proposed several rule changes for license-exempt child care facilities, family child care homes, group child care homes and child care centers, and comprehensive child care background screenings. As a reminder, these rule amendments are intended to update terminology to coincide with the transition of the Department of Health and Senior Services, Section for Child Care Regulation, to the DESE Office of Childhood, and do not affect the day-to-day practices of child care providers or Department staff.

Home Visiting

The Home Visiting section in the Office of Childhood submitted a proposed [rule revision](#) to update the requirements for programs and projects carried out by school districts under the Early Childhood Development Act. This proposed revision does not change current practice of Missouri Parents as Teachers programs. The changes align the rule to the requirements in the Early Childhood Development Act Administrative Manual.

Lights on Afterschool Day

The 22nd National Lights on Afterschool Day will be held on October 28, 2021. We are excited to participate in the event, this is the only nationwide

opportunities to all professionals who serve children birth to third grade. CYY will be held virtually March 10-11, 2022, at no cost to participants. We will share more details about this event on the [Office of Childhood website](#) and in future editions of Childhood Connections

Background Screenings

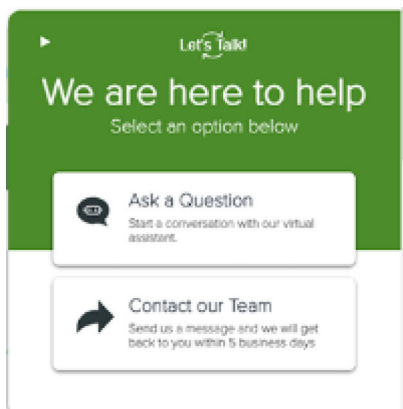
The [background screening process](#) for child care providers has changed. Any licensed, license-exempt, or registered child care provider, employee, or prospective employee fingerprinted on or after August 28, 2021 must use this new Missouri Automated Criminal History System (MACHS) registration code: **8897**.

Afterschool Grants Awarded

DESE awarded continuation grants for the 2021-22 school year for the 21st Century Community Learning programs and School Age Community federally funded afterschool programs. Afterschool programs continue to be a resource to help children and families adapt to the challenging circumstances created by the pandemic. Learn more about the importance of afterschool programs on the [Office of Childhood website](#).

event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. For more information about this event, please go to [Lights on Afterschool](#).

Have a Question? Let's Talk!



The Office of Childhood's website features a chat function called *Let's Talk!* With *Let's Talk!*, anyone can submit a question, comment, concern, suggestion, or compliment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can send a message from a computer, tablet, or smartphone and receive a timely response.

To access *Let's Talk!*, click on the green bar on the right side of any [DESE webpage](#) and follow the prompts.

Spotlight on Success



This month's spotlight includes several community partners who are successfully working together to ensure all of Missouri's children are safe, healthy, and successful learners. This three-minute video was shared with over 500 school leaders this summer as part of the DESE Annual Cooperative Conference for School Administrators, which included information about leadership development, and early and extended learning programs.

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update

The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years



to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

Save the Date-Mark Your Calendars Now!

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on Tuesday, October 26 from Noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate.

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